

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-3, 8 and 9 are now present in the application. The title, abstract, specification and claims 1-3 have been amended. Claims 8 and 9 have been added. Claims 4-7 have been cancelled. Claim 1 is independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Specification Objections

The title and the abstract have been objected to due to the presence of minor informalities. In view of the foregoing amendments, in which the Examiner's helpful suggestions have been followed, it is respectfully submitted that these objections have been addressed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that these objections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections are respectfully requested.

Drawings Objection

The drawings have been objected under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been addressed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that this objection has been obviated and/or rendered moot.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's drawings objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been addressed. Accordingly, all of the claims are now definite and clear. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's disclosure in the Background of the Invention ("Applicant's Disclosure") in view of Holcomb, U.S. Patent No. 5,145,380, Marks, U.S. Patent No. 4,782,427, Frank, U.S. Patent No. 3,154,281, and Wu, U.S. Patent No. 6,771,872. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection has been obviated and/or

rendered moot. As the Examiner will note, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements including “each of said plurality of insulation displaced contact sets being divided into an upper contact and a lower contact, a combination of said upper contact and said lower contact receiving a single one of the at least one network cables”. Applicant respectfully submits that the above combination of elements as set forth in amended independent claim 1 is not disclosed nor suggested by the references relied on by the Examiner.

Applicant’s Disclosure teaches a conventional patch panel with Insulation Displaced Contact (IDC) sets 74 (see FIG. 1). In particular, the eight ports of each IDC set 74 are arranged horizontally to receive a single network cable with four sets of double twisted network wires (each double twisted network wire includes two wires). Therefore, Applicant’s Disclosure fails to teach “each of said plurality of insulation displaced contact sets being divided into an upper contact and a lower contact, a combination of said upper contact and said lower contact receiving a single one of the at least one network cables” as recited in claim 1.

To clarify the present invention, Applicant respectfully submits that the design to split the IDC set into the upper contact and the lower contact provides for a feature of reducing the cross-talk and enhancing the telecommunication signal quality. The conventional patch panel using a horizontal IDC set would cause a larger wire length difference between two wires in the same double twisted network wire, which

causes the cross-talk interference. By applying the upper-lower contacts arrangement of the present invention, the two wires in the same double twisted network wire would go to the upper and lower contacts respectively, which reduces the wire length difference and the cross-talk interference. In addition, the wire length difference among different double twisted network wires is also reduced because the upper-lower contacts arrangement reduces the length of the entire IDC set.

With regard to the Examiner's reliance on Holcomb, Marks, Frank, and Wu, these references have only been relied on for their teachings of the support hole. These references also fail to disclose the above combination of elements as set forth in amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, these references fail to cure the deficiencies of Applicant's Disclosure.

In particular, Holcomb teaches a patch panel 10 including a plurality of terminal connector blocks 40, each terminal connector block 40 receiving a connectional telephone cable 93 (see FIG. 1). Therefore, Holcomb also fails to teach the above combination of elements as recited in claim 1. First, the terminal connector block 40 is not an IDC set. Second, the terminal connector block 40 is not divided into the upper and lower parts. Third, although there are upper and lower terminal connector blocks 40, each of them receives an individual telephone cable 93. In other words, the upper and lower terminal connector blocks 40 do not receive the same telephone cable 93. Therefore, Holcomb fails to

teach “each of said plurality of insulation displaced contact sets being divided into an upper contact and a lower contact, a combination of said upper contact and said lower contact receiving a single one of the at least one network cables” as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, none of the references utilized by the Examiner individually or in combination teach or suggest the limitations of amended independent claim 1 or its dependent claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims clearly define over the teachings of the references relied on by the Examiner.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

Additional Claims

Additional claims 8 and 9 have been added for the Examiner’s consideration.

Claim 8 recites “said plurality of double twisted network wires being received by one of said plurality of insulation displaced contact sets, each of said plurality of double twisted network wires including a first wire and a second wire, said first wire being received by said upper contact and said second wire being received by said lower contact”. Applicant’s Disclosure fails to teach the above combination of elements as recited in claim 8 because the first wire and second wire in Applicant’s Disclosure are received by a horizontally arranged contact (see FIG. 1).

Claim 9 recites “said upper contact includes a plurality of upper ports and said lower contact includes a plurality of lower ports, said first wire being received by one of said plurality of upper ports, said second wire being received by one of said plurality of lower ports, said one of said plurality of upper ports and said one of said plurality of lower ports being aligned vertically”. Applicant’s Disclosure fails to teach the above combination of elements as recited in claim 9 because the first wire and second wire in Applicant’s Disclosure are received by the horizontally arranged ports (see FIG. 1).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8 and 9 are allowable due to the additional recitations included in these claims, as well as due to their respective dependence on independent claim 1.

Favorable consideration and allowance of additional claims 8 and 9 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

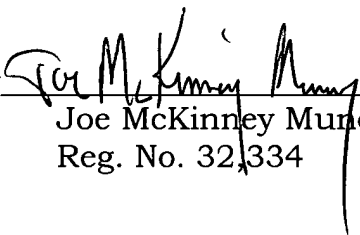
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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